

Case 2810

***Rhabdomeson* Young & Young, 1874 (Bryozoa): proposed designation of *Rhabdomeson progracile* Wyse Jackson & Bancroft, 1995 as the type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the current understanding of the name *Rhabdomeson* Young & Young, 1874 which is in established usage for a genus of Carboniferous bryozoans. Young & Young misidentified as *Millepora gracilis* Phillips, 1841 the single species that they included in the genus. We (1995) have named the taxon *Rhabdomeson progracile* and propose that this be designated as the type species.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Bryozoa; Carboniferous; *Rhabdomeson*.

1. Phillips (1841) described a number of zoophytes (accepted now as bryozoans) from the Devonian of south-west England. He established a new nominal species *Millepora gracilis* (p. 20, pl. 11, fig. 31). The original specimens appear to be lost.

2. M'Coy (1844, p. 195) identified material from the Carboniferous of Ireland as *Millepora gracilis* Phillips.

3. Young & Young (1874, p. 337) established the genus *Rhabdomeson* for small erect cylindrical bryozoans with hollow axial cylinders from which autozooecia are budded. Their genus was based on specimens collected from strata of Carboniferous age at various localities in the Midland Valley of Scotland. They possessed specimens of *Millepora gracilis* sensu M'Coy, 1844, and considered their Scottish specimens to be conspecific with M'Coy's Irish forms. Based on this identification, Young & Young (p. 337) included in *Rhabdomeson* only the nominal species *R. gracile*, so that *Millepora gracilis* Phillips is the type species by monotypy (see Blake, 1983, p. 569). Young & Young had some doubts as to whether their identification of Phillips's species was correct.

4. Whidborne (1898) redescribed bryozoans from the Devonian of south-west England and expressed the view (p. 193) that *Millepora gracilis* Phillips was not conspecific with the species that both M'Coy and Young & Young had identified as *M. gracilis*.

5. We have recently examined material in the Whidborne Collection in the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, and have confirmed that the Devonian and Carboniferous taxa are not conspecific (Wyse Jackson & Bancroft, 1995, p. 28). *Millepora gracilis* sensu M'Coy and *Rhabdomeson gracile* sensu Young & Young represent a

Carboniferous bryozoan undescribed until our recent paper in which we called it *Rhabdomeson progracile* (1995, p. 30). The holotype is specimen TCD.37000 (Trinity College, Dublin) from Hurst, North Yorkshire, England.

6. Since Young & Young misidentified the type species of *Rhabdomeson* it is necessary under Article 70b of the Code to refer the case to the Commission and we propose that *Rhabdomeson progracile* be designated as the type species.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Rhabdomeson* Young & Young, 1874 and to designate *Rhabdomeson progracile* Wyse Jackson & Bancroft, 1995 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Rhabdomeson* Young & Young, 1874 (gender: neuter), type species by designation in (1) above *Rhabdomeson progracile* Wyse Jackson & Bancroft, 1995;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *progracile* Wyse Jackson & Bancroft, 1995, as published in the binomen *Rhabdomeson progracile*.

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References

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